

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #99

NOVEMBER 2006

DECEMBER 14th: GCA HOSTS A HOLIDAY PARTY FOR EL PUENTE'S 100th ISSUE/10th ANNIVERSARY! At the Community Center 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. The GCA will provide eggnog and punch.

MY NEW MEXICO DAYS UNDER GALISTEO STARS

Denise Lynch

On Mondays I wear moonstones
and listen to Catherine with a C, laugh.

On Tuesday I ride the mares out of horses.
Venus is windows and dishes.
Otherwise I love to tell the desert stories.

On Wednesdays I go to town and remember
all of the old people I've loved and lost.
I read the Reporter horoscope and dream.
I eat from restaurants.

Thursdays, I am sad and have far to go.
Once I married a man in a different month, year,
and virtue, we were both born at 7:12 PM however.

Friday, Sean is growing and grouchy. I work for
the floors of the orchard, the studio, the barn.
They are all dusty and loud. The night hits hard &
I go to sleep early.

Weekends and wounded children
like to play people off each other.
Oblique cleverness abounds in this village.
There is coffee and a Pegasus of
blood bay, amber bay and plain bay.
I love Saturday.

On Sunday the bells ring
and geraniums shiver Mexican colors
in whatever season you happen to notice them.

A week of 7 is not nearly enough
space and time to absorb this beauty and return
back to life all its good things.

THURS. NOV. 16th: PUBLIC HEARING before the County Development Review Committee (CDRC) about the Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve -- Commonweal Conservancy's project at Thornton Ranch. **4PM at the County Courthouse on Grant St., Santa Fe.** The Galisteo Community Planning Committee will make a statement on our water concerns.

FRIDAY DEC. 1, 4-6 at Las Chivas (the Agora, Eldorado): poetry, art, and music including *Denise Lynch* and *Catherine Ferguson*. Wine and cheese reception after readings.

LET'S MAKE GALISTEO SHINE FOR XMAS EVE Wouldn't it be wonderful to place *farolitos* (paper bags holding sand and a candle) around the traditional village on December 24th? They could light a path from the church into the village. We hope that many of us will decorate our homes and/or pick a street and line it with *farolitos*. Can we count on you? If you are interested, call Jean Moya (466-1544) or Shira Schwille (577-3775).



Clarita Anaya and her granddaughter Nicole Anaya at the community Pancake Breakfast this fall.

Our condolences on the death of Tillie Chavez (1922-2006), Linda Anaya's mother, Clarita and Serapio Anaya's sister. She was born in Galisteo and buried here on Nov. 8th.

KEEP ON WISHING

Rebecca Fitzgerald has been in the papers and on TV for a project called "Senior Moment" that she started with Katie Rountree. After learning of a Minneapolis group called "Never Too Late," she decided to start a similar group here. The idea is that a Senior Moment is not just forgetting your own name but having a dream or a wish fulfilled. One Santa Fe man wanted "to have a steak with someone nice." Rebecca took him out to dinner and had a wonderful time herself. Another gentleman had a reunion with the horse he had ridden in the 2003 movie *The Missing*. If you are over 65 and have a wish, or if you would like to make a donation to the fledgling group, call Rebecca at 466-4957. A picture of the late Luis Chavez on his horse is on the website (www.seniormoment.org.)

GO WILD!

Jan Saunders

"In wildness is the preservation of the world." – D.H. Thoreau.

Before you give in to your next attack of exuberance to clean up your garden, patio, or back 40, stop a moment to ponder the benefit of leaving some of the wildness in your landscape as habitat and food source for birds and other wild creatures.

Of course we can't allow weeds and dry brush to pile up around structures, butane/propane tanks, or wood piles. Cleaning around these areas is necessary fire prevention. It's also always a good idea to remove exotic and invasive plants and trees and replace them with native species. What I am suggesting is that we all look around our land for evidence of nature's attempt at Wabi-sabi and leave some of it "just so," which is exactly what appeals to wildlife.

For instance, this fall you might consider leaving uncut the dried seed heads from your sunflowers and watch while the Goldfinches and Pine Siskins feast on nature's bounty. If you have a secluded spot in your garden, allow nature to pursue its unbridled enthusiasm for wildness. What's an eyesore to us is a little piece of heaven to nesting songbirds.

Along the Galisteo Bosque, the dark tangled thickets that border the river provide dependable, safe habitat for spring migrants. The Northern Water Thrush, a precious and scarce bird for our area, will only drop in and stay for the shady undergrowth along the water's edge. We usually have one of the few Northern Water Thrush sightings on the Santa Fe County Spring Migratory Bird Count. In our attempt to manicure and beautify our personal half acre, we sometimes unwittingly take away what nature provides for the wild community.

Every year I look for the Black Phoebe at the pond behind the Galisteo Inn. He's there every summer, perching on his favorite flimsy dead branch that conveniently hangs over the pond. From this special spot, he flies out to snatch bugs in mid air, always returning to perch again on the same branch. What a shame if we were to remove this dead twig because we think it messy or ugly. By letting Mother Nature have a hand in landscaping our property, we issue an open invitation to wildlife.

FALL YARDS AND GARDENS

Steve Vrooman, Earth Works Institute Staff Biologist

Fall has arrived in the Galisteo Watershed. After a summer of exceptional monsoon rains and flowering of the desert, it has dried out and gotten chilly again. The trees have lost their leaves, the fruit has dropped, and nature is going to sleep for the winter.

This summer's rain brought out a bumper crop of native grasses and wildflowers. Their seeds are feeding mammals and birds as they prepare for the winter. While things may look messy now, it may be too early to cut your yard back to the ground just yet. Many animals, and birds such as quail, can find cover and food in the tall grass that may help them thrive through the winter. Tall grass and wildflowers also help catch blowing snow and this cover shades the ground so that the moisture stays longer in the soil.

The best time to cut native grasses would be in the spring so that they can provide these benefits through the winter. No matter when you do trim your yard, it is important to understand what types of treatments have the best effects. Many of our beautiful native grasses are bunch grasses that have their growing tips above ground. Cutting these grasses too short damages the growth tips and may kill them. Most native grasses will thrive if they are cut to about six inches with a "weed eater." Lawn mowers cut much shorter and may damage the grass. Using a lawn mower or weed eater too close to the ground also disturbs a lot of soil, which may bring unwanted weeds into your native grass meadow.

When you do trim, most weed and grass trimmings can be left on the soil surface as a mulch for next year's plants. Blue Grama grass straw is an excellent mulch, especially for bare spots where you would like Grama grass to grow. Leaving dead grass and flowers behind lets the nutrients return to the soil rather than to the landfill. If you would like more wildflowers and grasses, fall is a good time to gently rake some native seed mixes into the soil. Plants of the Southwest is a good source for grass and flower mixes, and their Sandy Soil Stabilizer Grass Mix and High Desert Mix of Wildflowers are appropriate for the Galisteo Basin area.

Raking these seed mixes into the soil and then covering them with a light mulch will give you a good chance of having grasses and wildflowers come up next spring and summer. Mulch should be slightly composted, and a good mulch, treated with manure, can be found for free at the Caja del Rio landfill. (Eldorado's mulch is treated with trash....) Any mulch you use should be spread lightly over the soil, just thick enough so that some soil shows through. A thicker layer of mulch can be used where you want to smother weeds, but young seedlings of grass and flowers won't come up through a thick mulch. If wind is a concern, Piñon branches and maybe pecan shells can hold their own. Cedar chips should be used for weeds, but not to encourage new plants, as they are growth inhibitors.

Treating your native grasses with care, as well as planting the seeds of grasses and wildflowers now, will help create a low-maintenance yard that will look beautiful in any season.



PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

The date will be announced within two weeks for Peirce Clayton's second hearing on his land grab. No news on Morgan Gafford's appeal. Their refusal to hire lawyers is costing the community a bundle.

Frederica Gries is an author/translator who spent over twenty years in Taiwan, Beijing, and Hong Kong and has put together a unique bilingual illustrated book for children in English and Chinese called *Little Rabbit Talks on the Phone*. It is published by Trafford, which has pledged \$1.6 million to preserve endangered indigenous languages.

Cole Merrick, Santa Fe Prep boys' soccer team captain, was pictured in the paper (10/17) flying through the air in a game with Saint Michael's.

Priscilla Hoback is one of the "Matteucci Masters" showing at Nedra Matteucci Galleries in Santa Fe, Nov. 4-25. A photo of a youthful Priscilla also appeared in *The New Mexican*; she is barrel racing on her horse Joey, about whom she writes in a new book edited by Robert Wolf: *Ayer y Ahora: Stories of Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico*.

Muriel Fariello's latest letter to the editor of *The New Mexican* (10/7) was about how the U.S. Congress is controlled by big business. She suggests you access the Web to see the kind of money received from special interest groups. "Then you can throw up."

On November 3rd, the new Eastern Region headquarters of the Santa Fe County Fire Department, at the junction of US285 and Old Las Vegas Highway, held a station "wetdown" -- the traditional wet way of opening a new station—in which the GVFR participated. The new station will give a boost to volunteers serving Eldorado, Hondo, Glorieta and Galisteo, housing a firefighter/paramedic crew plus equipment and training for the district's volunteer firefighters.

Isabella Gonzales has taken Richard Shuff's place as computer facilitator and mailing helper for EL PUENTE. We are exceedingly grateful.

BELATED REPORT ON JULY FLOODS

On July 30th, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recorded a flash flood in the Galisteo Creek at 507 cubic feet per second (cfs) below the Galisteo Dam. It was the second time that week that the flows topped 500 cfs. (Record floods in the Galisteo Creek have produced flows up to 2,500 or 3,000 cfs.)

Several Lamy residents' lands were severely flooded, since the railroad acts as a dam in the narrow valley, stopping a natural spread of water. Loss of Piñons and channels created by road construction may also have been factors.

Jan-Willem Jansens of Earth Works Institute told *The New Mexican* (8/9/06) that culverts have been installed, bringing together water from different drainages, and resulting in increased flows. Earth Works has proposed a basin-wide effort to catch runoff with mulch and low dams of straw or stone, but Jansens warned that "the erratic nature of the climate here and the topography of the landscape are the character of the place, and people need to understand what the ramifications are."

GALISTEO WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP MEETING

On Nov. 2nd the Galisteo Watershed Partnership met at the Community College for a lively discussion about open space and CSOs (Community Stewardship Organizations), focused on the Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve. Speakers included Ben Haggard of ReGenesis, Ted Harrison of Commonweal, Jan-Willem Jansens of Earth Works, and Colleen Baker and Paul Olafson from the County Open Space Program. The Galisteo Community Planning Committee was among the many organizations and government agencies represented.

CSOs monitor the infrastructure (water, roads, etc.) and manage land, restoring the hydrological functions of arroyos, and improving storage quality diversity and capacity.

One of Commonweal's "wild ambitions" is to nudge real estate practice towards adopting an economically viable approach to conservation values. Haggard drew three concentric circles, the core of which was "regeneration of the land – the tool to get the rest to happen." Next came "growing understanding and capacity of the community to engage in this work," and the third ring was "evolving a vocation; the community needs to relate to the larger world, so it has a solid identity and knows its contributions."

Of particular interest to Galisteo residents were suggested plans for managing the 12,000 acres of open space at Thornton Ranch if the Commonweal project is eventually approved. Volunteers Bill Donahue and E.J.Evangelos of Eldorado spoke on managing the EIA's 4,000 acres of open space, which are legally bound to remain private property and are not open to non-residents (though they assured us, "we don't look at IDs"). There was support for Thornton Ranch's open spaces to be accessible to all, and managed by a CSO including residents of Lamy, Galisteo, and Eldorado. "The more inclusive you are, the more successful you will be," said Rici Petersen of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, who also noted that there are "enormous tax benefits" for conservation easements *only* in 2006-07.

The next GWP meeting is Fri., Feb.2 at the Community College.

HOW GALISTEO VOTED

So many people voted early and absentee this year, the lists posted on the Community Center door may not be an altogether accurate representation of the Galisteo district's politics. But we had a good turnout. 130 people voted in Galisteo on Nov. 7th. Straight tickets were 53 Democratic, 7 Republican, and no Greens (though some voted for David Bacon for PRC). Other votes were split in all directions. Three fewer people voted for Udall than for Bingaman, and Gary King did better than Bill Richardson.

For most federal and state offices the Democrats were way ahead (including Patsy Madrid, whose fate is still undecided as we go to press). Jim Baca led Patrick Lyons for Land Commissioner 100-27 in Galisteo, but lost the election. The General Obligation Bond (for a new district courthouse) was close -- 53-52 in favor -- as it was statewide. We were 77-35 in favor of the Gross Receipts tax raise for county-wide emergency services and communications, which will benefit our Fire Department, and our safety in Galisteo.

GCA REPORT

There are plans afoot to resurrect the Saturday morning coffees at the Community Center, possibly with a family or person sponsoring each one. Stay tuned for details.

Join us in celebrating the holidays and our great community newsletter on Dec. 14th (see box, p.1). *The next GCA Board meeting will be Nov. 16th, 7PM. --- Linda Braun, Secretary*

A VILLAGE: FRIEND OR FOE?

Kristen Siemon

The village of Galisteo is changing. I am a part of that change. I planted a raised bed of lettuces and herbs where old elm trees used to grow. My husband Sam put in a horseshoe pit in front of the abandoned house where Bluebell used to live. We built a wall. But it is not so much what we build or grow around the house that matters but rather *how* we live in a village, how we perceive village life and how we are perceived.

Everyone lives in a village differently. Some work. Some come and go. Some live like hermits behind old walls; others open their doors. There are builders and there are conservators. When a new house went up some feared the vultures would fly away. But they stayed and dried their expansive wings in the same old tree. Like the mountains and the sky around us, the birds were still there. They know how to live in a village.

But how do we live in a village? I like to listen to the birds, the wind, and barking dogs. I like the sound of machinery, the sound of people working. We listen to our neighbors talk about what they do and what they think.

Curiosity killed the cat. But I remain curious. There are boundaries to respect and real worries to face like water supplies and big trucks rumbling down the highway. Everyone has a plan or a dream. Like the vultures, I just want to live in Galisteo, in relative harmony with the trees and the neighbors.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: JOHN WILLETT

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Contact: 14 Avenida Vieja or call 466-1276 by Dec. 5th for next issue. PLEASE CALL TO CONTINUE ADS.

FREE

Horse manure from Linda Vista Stables. Call Maria, 466-8930.

FOR RENT

Bright, light, modern guesthouse apt. w. great views, fully furnished, own garden area; suitable for nonsmoking single/couple, no outdoor pets; prefer long-term; deposit and references requ. \$725 per mo.+ utilities. 466-1668/466-6003.

Old adobe apartment, 1BR, \$800 mo., incl. utilities. 466-1544.

SERVICES

Saturday Art Classes for children and adults, Retablos and watercolors. 10-12AM or 2-4PM, weekdays or weekends, \$150 for 6 weeks. Catherine Ferguson. 466-2765.

Native Bloom, Landscape design/maintenance. Linda, 466-4658.

Common sense, gentle dog-training: house manners, management problem-solving at your home; also limited boarding. Twenty years experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

Acupuncture, herbal medicine, feng shui, nutritional counseling, massage. Dr. Connie Fisher, 470-9314.

Linda Vista Stables: Beginner western riding for children and adults; 1-2 hr. trail rides; short-term boarding. 466-8930.

Passive Solar Builders: Locally owned general contractor since 1980. Quality home construction, renovations: 466-2118.

Ron Helman, Life Coach: see www.ronhelman.com; 466-1919.

Like things done right? Welding, flagstone, moss rock, fountains, plumbing, sprinkler, and drip systems plus Gopher Control. David Maestas, cell 670-8608 or 660-9715.

Baby-sitting, petsitting and animal care, Mercedes, 466-7285.

Need a permit? Computer Aided Drafting Support: for architects, engineers, contractors and homeowners. 4 yrs. experience/local references. Call Adan Cárdenas, 466-8967.

Galisteo Woodworks: for your custom woodworking needs. Furniture and furniture repair. Antonio Chavez, 466-3601.

SB Lejo/Sina Brush is taking special orders for antique Mexican furniture. Call 577-4045.

Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors, 35 yrs. experience, local refs. Onesimo, 466-1430.

Call Beth for **housesitting/petcare/vet runs/odd jobs/studio assistance/party help/you name it...** in Galisteo, 470-7606.

Electrical Concepts: Residential/Commercial/Industrial. Hansi Mohn and Michael Anaya, 988-8853.

Dave's Auto Repair: tune-ups, oil change, restoring, minor repairs, restoring, painting. Local refs. Free estimates: David Montoya, 466-2097.

One Room at a Time, Organize, Clear Clutter. Redecorate, Archive Memorabilia. Call Pamela Markoya, 466-9191.

Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving scarves, shawls, vests, jackets, handwoven of luxurious chenille. 466-2118.

Nick's Landscaping, Brush Removal, and Garbage Collection. Call 466-0530 or 470-5973.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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